

The Joel Lane House  
Raleigh, North Carolina

HABS No. 12-D-2

[MEASURED DRAWINGS AND DATA PAGES ONLY]

HABS  
NC,  
92-RAL,  
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
M. R. Marsh, District Officer  
509 Builders Building  
Charlotte, North Carolina

THE JOEL LANE HOUSE  
728 West Hargett Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina

HABS  
N.C.  
92-RAL  
2-

This house was built in 1760 by Col. Joel Lane, on his plantation called "Wakefield," in the settlement of Bloomsbury. In 1771 Bloomsbury became the County Seat of Wake County. In 1792 the plantation of Joel Lane was selected as the location of the Capital of the State of North Carolina and the name of the settlement was changed to Raleigh.

The house, as originally built, faced east on what is now South Boylan Avenue. The drawings represent the house in its original state, except for the kitchen, which was detached from the house and reached by a covered passage. This portion has since been destroyed. A Mr. Boylen acquired the property from the Lane family and later added a wing on what is now the west end of the house.

In 1927 the house was purchased by the Wake County Committee, North Carolina Chapter, Colonial Dames of America. The organization moved the house to its present location, restored it to some extent and maintain it as an historical monument and as a meeting place for the local chapter. When the house was moved to the present location the wing was removed, and with some changes, converted into quarters for the care-takers of the property.

On a pictorial map of Raleigh, dated 1872, the house is very clearly indicated in its original location and after the wing was added. This map is an exhibition at the North Carolina Hall of History in the Supreme Court Building at Raleigh.

The house is in a fair state of preservation. The floor framing timbers are all hand-hewn, morticed and pegged together. The floors are wide random pine boards. The walls above the wainscot of the living room, dining room, hall and bed rooms are plastered and covered with paper. The thin matched board partitions are of random width boards applied vertically. The wainscot around the remaining walls are of matched random boards running horizontally. All woodwork, exterior and interior is of pine and is painted white. The matched board partitions are worthy of note.

The roof is now covered with asbestos shingles of a type not appropriate to the house. Old drawings and photographs of the building in its original location, indicate the chimneys much larger and heavier, battered and spread at the base in the manner of other work of that period.